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Topics of the Day.

THE House Committee on Foreign Affairs is said to have been discussing some recent development of the Mexican question, and come to the conclusion that the Monroe doctrine must be sustained, so far at least as can be done by a decided moral support of the Liberal cause. Juarez seems to be supporting it by force of arms with far more efficiency than has been generally supposed. The letters of correspondents of all shades of opinion begin to give a very gloomy picture of the imperial prospects, but the action of our people and our Government in general has done not much to strengthen the hands of the Republican leaders, and the policy pursued of late by the State department has apparently done something to awaken them. Santa Anna's arrival, for instance, and the alleged good understanding between him and Secretary Seward, seem to have excited the jealousy of the Mexican minister, and, to all appearance, bode no good to the Republican cause and the Juarez party. It will be well if Congress gives some certain sign of the opinion held by the very great majority of the American people, which certainly, if it likes Maximilian not at all, likes Santa Anna and the Almonte party very little more.

On the recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences, Congress passed recently a bill, which has since been approved by the President, providing for the issuing of a coin of the value of five cents, which shall supersede all paper fractional currency of a less denomination than ten cents. This coin is to be connected with the French metric system by its weight of five (Fr.) grammes, and its breadth of one-fortieth of a metre (39.37 in.). On Thursday the House passed promptly three bills providing that hereafter it shall be lawful throughout the United States to employ the weights and measures of the metric system; directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish each State government with a set of these standard weights and measures; and authorizing the President to appoint a special commission to negotiate with foreign governments for the establishment of a common unit of money, of identical value in all commercial countries which shall adopt it. These are very considerable strides in a direction towards which all Europe is tending, as we took occasion to show in No. 39 of THE NATION. England has gone so far as to legalize the metric system as the House of Representatives has just done; and it would be well if something like the action of the British Association for the Advancement of Science could be taken here. That body appropriated money to erect in conspicuous places mural tablets containing the metre and its subdivisions. Besides the most obvious conveniences likely to result from international agreement on the metric system, the aid that statisticians will derive from it is simply incalculable.

THERE seems to be a little hitch somewhere about Jefferson Davis's trial. It does not seem very clear whether the bill of indictment has been found against him with the view of getting him off scot free or having him punished, and there are mysterious disputes amongst the lawyers as to whether it will hold water or not when the trial comes on. In the meantime it is said or hinted that Chief-Justice Chase very properly hesitates about conducting a judicial proceeding of this character in a district still ruled by martial law, and that the President proposes to quiet his scruples by a proclamation declaring the civil courts to have exclusive jurisdiction in all things civil. With all deference to the parties concerned, we do not see how this would mend the matter. The civil law is either in force in Virginia or it is not. If it is, the President's proclamation is not needed to give the courts jurisdiction; if it is not, it is hard to see what the courts gain, either in security or dignity, by an order issued *ad hoc* and arbitrarily by the President. Suppose that, during the trial in Richmond, a case was to arise calling clearly for one of those displays of discretionary power to which the President is every week compelled to resort in other parts of the South, would he feel so far bound by his proclamation as to refrain from interference? This is the real question after all, and we know of no answer to it that can be called entirely satisfactory.

WE believe it is now no secret that a movement is on foot to procure the pardon of Ketchum, now confined in the State prison for the most extensive and perhaps least excusable batch of forgeries ever committed. There is hardly a crime to be found in the whole annals of fraud for which there was less to be said in palliation than his. And we do not know anything better calculated to encourage those lapses from honesty which have of late been so frequent amongst the young commercial men of this city than the extension to him of either mercy or indulgence. Moreover—and this is a still more important consideration—we know of nothing better calculated to shake the confidence of the poor in the administration of justice than the success of an effort made by rich men to save Ketchum from the fate he has merited, and everything which shakes this confidence is a public calamity. We trust that the governor will do his duty in this matter whenever it comes before him, and that all who profess a regard for either public or private morality will not only not sign any petition on the subject, but discourage others from doing so.

JUDGE ABELL, of Louisiana, has decided the Civil Rights Bill to be unconstitutional, on the ground that the two-thirds vote by which it was passed over the veto of the President was not the vote of two-thirds of the Senate, the members from the Southern States being absent. He also objects to it on the general ground that it is an exercise of power not conferred on the general Government by the constitution. He adds that he also refuses to be bound by it as an act of "duty to his State." A considerable portion of the decision is in the nature of a stump speech. It is valuable, however, as showing the course things will run in the South until the act has been passed upon by the Supreme Court of the United States.

THE lack of variety in our editorial pages to-day is plainly accounted for by the heavy demands upon our advertising columns.

THE commission named in a joint resolution of Congress to select a site for a Post-office in this city, has been approved by the President. We notice with satisfaction that Dr. Schultz, President of the Board of Health, is one of the number, because we trust that he will be disposed to secure that comprehensive consideration of all the changes in the present plan of the city and arrangements of business which ought to be had in connection with a change in the locality of the Post-office. We should, for instance, much regret to see any portion of that piece of waste ground called the City Hall Park taken for the purpose, unless such a change were at the same time made in the plan of all the area within the lines of buildings surrounding it, that a more convenient Post-office would be among the least of the advantages we should have to set off against the curtailment of the only ground in the interior of the lower part of the town where there is any chance of our holding a respectable breathing place for posterity. As we advance in civilization and this space is made available, by suitable improvements, for its proper use, its limited extent will be more and more regretted.

WE regard Mr. Donnelly's resolution, offered in the House of Representatives on Friday, and looking to the planting of woods and forests in the timberless plains of the West, as one of the most useful measures proposed this session. The planting would have an important effect on emigration, of course, and in the lapse of time would undoubtedly bring about alterations in the climate and temperature of those regions. We presume the Committee on Public Lands, to whom the resolution was referred, are familiar with Mr. Marsh's book on "Man and Nature;" but if they are not, they will find it a helpful guide in their enquiries, and an encouragement to report the necessary legislation.

THE relation between the gas companies and the public continues unchanged. The former have met with no success in their experiments, but are, they pretend, willing to adopt any plan which the Board of Health may suggest, or even to offer a considerable prize to any one who will prevent the escape of noxious vapors from their works. Perhaps the remedy, after all, is *Punch's* for the prevention of railroad accidents; and we suggest as a "plan" for the Board, that it should compel the directors to live in the area affected by the nuisance, and as near as possible to the gas factories; or, as the companies have an advantage over the public, since to suspend their operations is to darken the city, let the Board cut off the gas from the directors whose residences are in town, until the purity of the atmosphere bears some proportion to the purity of the companies' intentions, or until coal gas is superseded altogether by petroleum gas, according to the promises and expectations of a new corporation.

THE Spaniards have bombarded Callao and been beaten off, it is said, with heavy loss. It seems probable that this continued tide of disaster and humiliation will bring the Government at home to its senses, and put an end to one of the paltriest and most barbarous wars of the century. Five years ago Spain seemed reviving; judging from the events of the present year, there are still lower depths awaiting her.

THE news from Europe will now be awaited with considerable anxiety, as it is reasonable to look by every mail for the outbreak of hostilities in Italy. The last steps taken by the Italian Government were of such a nature as to leave very little doubt that it counted confidently on the co-operation of Prussia in an attack on Austria. Whether Prussia draw the sword at once or not makes for the moment very little difference to Italy. As long as she threatens to do so, Austria will be compelled to keep the bulk of her army in Germany, leaving Italy tremendous numerical odds on the Po. But then the famous "Quadrilateral" may, with all the garrison Austria can throw into it, defy everything but a blockade. A blockade is tedious, and time is now the worst enemy of Italy. Her army is enormous, her finances in a condition little short of desperate, and her people are in one of those excited moods in which failure is apt to breed despair. It remains to be seen if the new nation has acquired during its six years' independence that magnificent indifference to immediate results, and magnificent faith in the future, without which no great struggle was ever yet carried to a successful issue.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, May 19, 1866.

EVERY one will be glad that a bill has received the sanction of Congress for the revision and consolidation of the laws of the United States. These statutes at large now make twelve ponderous volumes in octavo. It is thought that by omitting the obsolete statutes, and codifying the remainder, our national law may be compressed into a single volume of quite portable dimensions.

The recent debates in the House upon the constitutional amendment were notable for the superior spirit and condensation of the speeches, in most instances. This praiseworthy result is attributable simply to the adoption and strict enforcement of the half-hour rule. If the rule could only be made universal, our Congressional eloquence would speedily gain in quality what it would lose in quantity—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

The tug of war upon the reconstruction amendment begins in the Senate on Monday. There will be no flinching from the rugged issue in that body, though it may be that some amendment of the disfranchisement clause will be carried, in the hope of presenting a cleaner issue to the people.

DIARY.

May 16.—In the Senate, a bill was offered to transfer the Indian Bureau from the Department of the Interior to the War Department. The consular appropriation bill was debated and amended.

In the House, a bill was passed to provide for the safety of the lives of passengers on board steam vessels. Several private bills were passed, and the tax bill was discussed in detail and amended.

May 17.—In the Senate, a bill was passed to punish the carriage of nitro-glycerine by passenger vessels. Also, a bill granting lands in aid of a railroad from California to Oregon. The consular and diplomatic appropriation bill was passed. The West Point Military Academy appropriation bill was passed, after striking out the clause prohibiting appointments of cadets from the rebel States, and inserting a prohibition of the appointment to the Military or Naval Academy of any person who served in the army of the rebellion.

In the House, a bill was passed providing that it shall be lawful throughout the United States to employ the weights and measures of the metric system. Also, a resolution authorizing the appointment of a special commissioner to facilitate the adoption of a uniform coinage between the United States and foreign countries. The tax bill was debated and amended.

May 18.—In the Senate, the day was spent on the pension laws and private bills.

In the House, the Senate bill to punish kidnapping for the purpose of enslaving was passed. Mr. Schenck reported, from the Committee on Military Affairs, a bill to equalize the bounties of soldiers. The remainder of the day was spent on the tax bill and on District of Columbia business.

May 19.—The Senate did not sit. In the House, speeches on the state of the Union were made by Messrs. Morris, Patterson, Newell, and Ross.

THE FREEDMEN.

IN the conferences which Generals Steadman and Fullerton are holding with the colored people in their tour through the South, there is a uniform desire expressed by the latter for the retention of the Bureau, whose officers are generally approved as well-meaning and upright. At Wilmington, when General Steadman asked whether they would prefer that the Bureau or the troops should be withdrawn, they answered unanimously, the troops. Among the obvious reasons for this choice, the privilege of schooling was not the least. At Norfolk, one of the committee (four or five are usually selected for convenience as spokesmen) was asked by the same General: "The duties of the Bureau must be turned over to the civil courts; had this better be done while the military remain?" He replied: "I think it best to get the Virginia courts in the habit of doing us justice *now*, while the military are here; then it will be much easier for them after the military are withdrawn." And General Steadman said: "I think your proposition a very sensible one."

—Capt. Geo. O. Glavis, formerly a U. S. A. chaplain in the military hospital at Newark, N. J., has written a letter from Goldsborough, N. C., to Secretary Stanton, refuting certain charges against himself contained in the report of Generals Steadman and Fullerton as published in the *New York Herald*. Their personal examination of him did not last longer than ten minutes, and the company they kept, while in town, he thinks was not favorable to impartial or exact conclusions about the workings of the Bureau.

—The two commissioners have reached Savannah. They are reported to have detected frauds in the Sea Islands on the part of planters, who, for instance, charge their hands \$3 a bushel for corn which cost but thirty cents.

Notes.

LITERARY.

THE late election to fill the chair of M. Dupin in the French Academy resulted in the choice of M. Cuvillier-Fleury. Only two other candidates were proposed, M. Henri Martin, author of the well known history of France, which has several times been crowned by the Academy, and Count Franz de Champagny, the author of a history of the Cæsars which is favorably criticised in the last number of the "Dublin Review," of the school of Montalembert, and once editor of the "Revue Contemporaine." Champagny was supported by *Le Constitutionnel*, but received only one vote that of Lamartine. Eleven voted for Martin, including Cousin, Feuilleton, Legouvé, Merimée, Mignet, and Sainte-Beuve, while Cuvillier-Fleury had twenty votes, the most noteworthy of his supporters being Guizot, Montalembert, Prévost-Paradol, and Villemain. Thiers would have voted for Martin, and Berryer for Cuvillier-Fleury, but both were kept away by their duties in the Corps Législatif. The rule which prescribes that the choice of the Academy must lie between those men only who have gone through a formal candidature and have made personal visits to each member to solicit his suffrage, often works injury to the reputation of the Academy, when, as in this case, no persons of great merit are willing, of their own motion, to undergo the ordeal of a candidature. Modest merit is left in the background, and eminent scholars and writers are passed by. Few men are willing to try again after one rejection, unless sure of success. Alfred-Auguste Cuvillier-Fleury was the preceptor and secretary to the Duc d'Aumale, and was for many years one of the chief writers on the staff of the *Journal des Débats*. Several of his sketches of men and manners during the later years of the reign of Louis Philippe have been collected into volumes. In 1851 he published "Portraits Politiques et Révolutionnaires," and in 1854, "Etudes Historiques et Littéraires." His success was owing to his legitimist principles and to his connection with the *Journal des Débats*, a large force of the writers for this paper having preceded him to the Academy. By the death of Clapissou a seat in the Académie des Beaux Arts is vacant. Gounod, Felicien-David, Massé, and Maillard are mentioned as the candidates.

—"Les Apôtres," the second volume of Renan's History of the Origin of Christianity, has been published in France, and the first part of a German translation is also out. In an introduction of some length the author defends himself against the cross-fires to which he has been subject, and explains the system on which he has proceeded in the present volume. A new edition of the "Vie de Jésus" will shortly be issued, with an appendix containing a detailed reply to his antagonists and a full statement of his reasons for accepting the fourth Gospel as genuine. "The Apostles" contains the Christian history from 33 to 45 A.D., from the death of Christ to the chief mission of St. Paul. A third volume, "St. Paul," will complete the work. The most remarkable portions of this volume, in a literary point of view, are the description of Antioch in the twelfth chapter, and the whole of the seventeenth chapter on the state of the world about the middle of the first century. This chapter is said to have given great offence to the French liberals, on account of the statements concerning freedom of thought and action under the Empire and the reflections on the influence of absolute power on philosophy and literature. It is so customary for certain persons in France to see a modern allusion in every book touching on Roman affairs, that truths as evident as these cannot be stated without bringing on the writer accusations of Cæsarism and of an attempt against liberty. The sale of "The Apostles" is, of course, not so large as that of the first volume, which fact is wittily explained in *L'Écroulement* by the old proverb, "Il est mieux de s'attaquer au bon Dieu qu'à ses saints."

—A very remarkable literary imposture has just been discovered and exposed in England. A MS. journal of travels, purporting to be written by George Ludwig von — (the name had been carefully erased), was found in 1859 in the archives of the Military Topographical Dépôt at St. Petersburg. The German traveller professes to have been employed by the East India Company early in the present century (the MS. is dated 1806) to purchase horses for the use of the army. Starting from Srinagur, the capital of Cashmere, on the 8th of May, on the 9th he passed in sight of an active volcano, Darumudan; on the 10th crossed the Indus, and reached Kashgar on the 12th of June. Here he bought 132 horses and despatched them to Bengal with Lieut. Harvey and eight Sepoys. The lieutenant and the Sepoys were murdered on their way by Mahrattas. He, himself, travelled about the little known regions and visited Khokand, Turkestan, and Samarkand, but, finding his exit to the north impeded by the Kirghiz tribes,

he returned after about a year's absence to India. A dispute arose with the East India Company in regard to the payment for the horses that had been captured, and as a result his journal was offered and sold to the Russian Government. The MS. is elegantly written, accompanied by forty sketches of the country and numerous tables of astronomical positions. A translation into French was also found, with several maps of the regions visited. The work is very circumstantial, giving full details about the inhabitants, productions, and physical features of a country then entirely unknown, and even now rarely visited in some parts by Europeans. The faithfulness of the journals deceived the Russians, and it was made the basis of their official maps as well as of those of Kiepert of Berlin, and Stanford of London. A memoir on the Pamir region, by Veniukof, published in the journal of the Imperial Geographical Society in 1861, first brought it to the knowledge of English geographers. Sir Henry C. Rawlinson investigated the subject and made his report at a recent meeting of the Royal Geographical Society. Numerous statements in the baron's journals were at once seen to be improbable and untrue—the whole description of Kashgar, which has since been often visited; the alleged volcano in a country which shows no traces of volcanic action, and the fact that few names correspond to the present names of the places mentioned. The impossibility of performing the journey to the Indus in two days and to Kashgar in twenty-five days was at once fatal to the narrative. There are no horses in those mountainous regions but ponies, unfit for cavalry service; and no Lieutenant Harvey was known to be in the East India Company's service at that time, neither is there any record of such journeys or expeditions. Indeed, it would have been perfectly impossible at that time to have traversed as peaceful travellers, with instruments and note-books, countries which even now are very dangerous. There seems no doubt, after Sir H. C. Rawlinson's investigation, that the whole journal is an ingenious hoax played on the Russian Government, which has always been eager for details with regard to Central Asia, and was especially so in the early part of this century, during the alliance between Alexander I. and Napoleon.

—Among recent books on art history and criticism the "New History of Painting in Italy from the Second to the Sixteenth Century," by J. A. Crowe and G. B. Cavalcaselle, holds a very important place. The third volume of this work has just been issued by Murray. It contains the painters of the earlier part of the sixteenth century, beginning with Luca Signorelli, famed for his anatomical knowledge, and ends with Andrea del Sarto, who died in 1531, "a little fellow," said Michael Angelo to Raphael, "who will bring sweat to your brow if ever he is engaged in great works." Perugino and Fra Bartolommeo fall within the limits of the volume. The indexes, illustrations, and catalogues of pictures are elaborated with very great care, and for its trustworthy narrative and its sound criticism the book is of great authority. Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co. have just published "A Century of Painters of the English School, with Critical Notes of their Works and an Account of the Progress of Art in England," by Richard and Samuel Redgrave. Mr. Richard Redgrave is a Royal Academician, and is the surveyor of Her Majesty's pictures and inspector-general for art. "Essays on Art" is the title of a little book by Mr. Francis Turner Palgrave, a collection of newspaper criticisms, published chiefly in the "Saturday Review." They have all been revised and some rewritten, and are not so open to the charge of having "a note of provinciality" as was the hand-book which Mr. Matthew Arnold alluded to in his essay on the "Influence of Academies." This book is worth reading, as giving a sketch of contemporary English art by a sympathetic, though not always trustworthy, critic. The principal papers are on the three last exhibitions of the Royal Academy, on Mulready, Dyce, William Hunt, Holman Hunt, Madox Brown, Triqueti's "Marmor Homerium," and "Sculpture in England." Revised and rewritten criticism, such as is contained in this book, rightly bears the motto from Sainte-Beuve, "C'est à ce lendemain sévère que tout artiste sérieux doit songer." This book is announced for republication by Hurd & Houghton. M. Taine has given us the first instalment of his critical survey of Italian art in "Voyage en Italie," the first volume of which is out. It is a portion of the articles entitled "L'Italie et la Vie Italienne," now being published in the "Revue des deux Mondes," and includes criticisms on the art works of Naples and Rome, as well as some very suggestive accounts of Italian life and thought.

—Several new books of interest are announced in England: "The Crown; of Wild Olive, Three Lectures on Work, Traffic, and War," by Mr. Ruskin; "The Albert Nyanza, Great Basin of the Nile, and Explorations of the Nile Sources," by Samuel White Baker, with numerous maps and illustrations; a new translation of "Homer's Iliad," by Sir John Herschell; the Globe edition of the poetical works of Sir Walter Scott, with a preface by F. T. Palgrave; the second and concluding volume of Miss Meteyard's "Life of

Wedgwood;" "The Memoirs and Correspondence of Field Marshal Viscount Combermere;" and a new story by the author of "Adam Bede," to be called "Felix Holt, the Radical," the scene being laid in the Midland counties during the excitement of the Reform Bill agitation.

"Superstition and Science" was the subject of a lecture recently delivered by Prof. Charles Kingsley before the Royal Institution in London. In his analysis of the subject, Mr. Kingsley considered fear as the sole cause of superstition, which he confined within its narrowest limits, disregarding entirely wonder and imagination. The lecture was especially felicitous in its illustrations, but displayed all of the lecturer's old faults in analysis and treatment.

The second volume of the Emperor Napoleon's "Histoire de Jules César" was to be published in both French and English on the 8th of May. It embraces the Gallic wars and extends to the passage of the Rubicon, with which it closes. This volume shows the important results of the numerous and extensive surveys and excavations made on the sites of Caesar's battles and camps, especially at Alise (Alesia) and Puy d'Issole (Uxellodunum). The volume is accompanied by an atlas of thirty-two maps and plans. After detailing the Gallic wars, the Emperor gives a summary of the events and intrigues at Rome which ended in the elevation of Caesar. The analogies which were thought to be seen in the first volume, between the state of Rome and France, are still further drawn out by the present volume, and the author acknowledges them in the foot-notes by reference to his own accession to power.

SCIENTIFIC.

USES OF MAGNESIA.—Apart from the interest which necessarily attaches to it as being the source of the metal magnesium, which is latterly coming into somewhat extensive use in the arts of pyrotechny and photography, magnesia is now attracting considerable attention in view of its great refractoriness as regards fire, and of the fact that it is capable of hardening, like hydraulic cement, *when mixed with water.*

Very strong and exceedingly infusible crucibles are now made in Paris, for scientific purposes, by compressing magnesia, and these bid fair to supersede for some purposes the lime crucibles which have been in vogue there during the past ten or twelve years. The magnesian crucibles are readily made and possess one very great advantage over lime crucibles in that they may be kept for a long time in the air without undergoing change. Even after they have been exposed to moist air for months, it is only necessary to heat them slowly in order that they may be used without trouble. Magnesia and lime resemble one another in that they are not prone to form fusible slags by uniting with oxide of iron; and in this respect they both differ essentially from silica, which is the predominant ingredient in ordinary crucibles and fire-brick. The suggestion has been thrown out in this connection that bricks made of magnesia would be valuable as material for the floors of puddling furnaces, since it is probable that the magnesian bricks would resist much longer than the usual silicious materials that solvent action of oxide of iron to which the linings of these furnaces are so much exposed. The cost of magnesia, which is now about fifty dollars the ton in Paris, must, however, prevent it from coming immediately into any very general use for metallurgical purposes.

Another property of magnesia, which is likely to find important technical applications, has recently been brought prominently into view by H. Deville. In this case, as in so many other previous instances, the observations of this acute chemist have thrown a flood of light upon several empirical facts and methods in chemical technology which have hitherto been exceedingly difficult of comprehension. It is a familiar fact that the common, light, powdery "calcined magnesia" of the apothecaries, which is prepared by heating the hydrous carbonate, yields no very tenacious product upon being moistened with water. But the more compact variety of magnesia, obtained by calcining the nitrate or chloride of magnesium at a bright red heat, possesses remarkable hydraulic properties. When wet it quickly combines with a portion of water, increases somewhat in bulk, and is converted into a crystallized hydrate of remarkably compact texture and of great durability. This hydrate is somewhat harder than marble, and is equally heavy and tenacious; when in thin layers it is translucent, like alabaster.

In preparing this magnesia very high temperatures must be avoided, for its hydraulic properties would be thereby impaired. After magnesia has been exposed to a white heat during ten or twelve hours, its hydraulic qualities seem to be well-nigh destroyed; for if this superheated product be re-

duced to fine powder and mixed with water it will not "set," and it will now harden only slowly when left for weeks exposed to the air.

A mixture of equal parts of the hydraulic magnesia and of chalk, or powdered marble, made into paste with water, yields a slightly plastic mass which admits of being readily moulded, and which, upon being placed in water, becomes after a time extremely hard and compact. By means of it M. Deville expects to be able to obtain busts, bas-reliefs, and like objects, in artificial marble, by casting; the hydraulic magnesian mixture being simply poured or pressed into appropriate moulds. One very important practical observation, to which the study of these mixtures of the hydraulic magnesia and marble directly led, relates to the degree of heat which ought to be maintained in the kilns in which dolomites or magnesian limestones are burned. It has long been known that many dolomites yield upon calcination hydraulic cements, though these products have generally been held in comparatively little esteem. But it now appears that if dolomites, tolerably rich in magnesia, be calcined at temperatures sufficiently low, there will be obtained products which rapidly "set" under water, and are converted into stone of extraordinary hardness. In Deville's trials the dolomite was heated to temperatures below redness, say to 600° or 700° Fah., these temperatures being, of course, very much lower than those of an ordinary lime-kiln. By this treatment the carbonic acid of the magnesia is alone expelled, while that which is in combination with the lime remains intact, or but little disturbed. After this gentle calcination there is really left a mixture of hydraulic magnesia and marble, such as has been mentioned above. In the final hardened product the particles of carbonate of lime will be found unaltered, precisely as in the stone prepared from artificial mixtures of magnesia and marble. If the dolomite be heated to temperatures somewhat higher than those given above, so that a small quantity of quick-lime is produced in the mass, the product will still be capable of "setting" under water, but when a pure dolomite is heated to redness the carbonic acid is all expelled from the lime as well as from the magnesia, and upon treating the product with water it will slake at once and fall to powder.

From some experiments made by Culvert, it appears that where a dolomite rich in magnesia contains also a considerable portion of silica, this last will combine with the lime and render it harmless. Silicious dolomites, then, may be heated even to redness and still yield products which are hydraulic; the hydraulic effect being in this case increased, according to Culvert, by grinding the product to fine powder immediately after the calcination.

FROST FIGURES.—A certain Herr Schulz, of Hamburg, has hit upon the curious idea of seizing, as it were, and rendering permanent the beautiful pictures which are formed by the deposition of hoar-frost upon our window-panes in cold weather. His experiments are interesting from a scientific point of view, as going to illustrate the power possessed by bodies in the act of crystallizing of enclosing, and even transporting, extraneous matter. In order to fix the frost picture, there is first sifted, through a fine hair sieve, onto an ordinary pane of glass a very thin layer of finely powdered enamel; the pane is then placed upon a thick plate of iron, which is cooled to a temperature of about eighteen degrees above zero. The whole thing is then thrust into a space filled with aqueous vapor. The vapor at once condenses upon the cold glass and forms frost pictures, the powdered enamel being at the same time taken up by these mechanically, so that the enamel-powder is arranged in the same forms as the particles of ice. The frost figures enclose enamel figures of precisely the same form, the enamel being in some sort the skeleton of the crystals, of which the hoar-frost is the flesh. The pane being now carefully warmed and dried, the enamel figures will still remain after all the water has been expelled, and on heating the glass to redness in a muffle furnace, the enamel can be burned into the glass; so that, as the final result, there will be obtained a transparent pane covered with representations of the frost figures done in enamel.

COLORING MATTER OF THE EMERALD.—Of late years doubts have arisen among chemists as to the cause of the beautiful green color of the emerald. After Vanquelin had detected the presence of oxide of chromium in specimens of emerald examined by him in 1797, and after the discovery of the fact that this oxide is capable of imparting a green coloration to vitreous substances, it was everywhere naturally admitted that oxide of chromium must be the coloring matter of the emerald. But in 1858 this view was contradicted by Lewry, a Danish chemist, resident in Paris, who, in an elaborate essay upon the occurrence and composition of the emerald of Muso, in New Granada, advanced the idea that the color of the emerald is not due to oxide of chromium, but is dependent upon the presence of a certain organic substance. According to Lewry the emerald becomes colorless upon being ignited. Finding his last assertion to be incorrect as regards emeralds from other

localities, G. Rose and Wöhler have taken the trouble to re-examine the whole subject. They have subjected to careful analysis emeralds from the very locality from which the stones mentioned by Lewry were derived, and have found that these do not lose their green color upon being ignited; and as the final result of their investigation they have reached the conclusion that the green color of the emerald is, after all, really due to the presence in the stone of small quantities of the oxide of chromium.

A TOUCHSTONE FOR MASSACHUSETTS.*

WE know no law for specialties and hobbies, nor, as we opine, is the human mind accountable for its choice of pursuits, however eccentric that choice may appear. It is as difficult to appreciate investigations for which we have no sympathy, as it is to explain the attractions which they had for men who were willing to exhaust their lives upon them. What is essential is, that this liberty of selection should continue and be respected, and that we should trust that in the divine economy no diligent enquiry will be wasted, though it concern itself with the leg of a fly or with a lacuna in the chorus of a Greek tragedy. The field of historical research is, for our short existence, both unlimited and illimitable; and as the past is never weary of giving up its dead, the record of the race is little better than a palimpsest, on which the writing of one generation is obliterated by the writing of the next, which in turn is destined to be buried under that of the third, and so on *ad infinitum*. In short, history is judgment subject to perpetual appeal, and the appellants, conscious and unconscious, are legion. The world sometimes finds them bores, sometimes disturbers of the peace. There are delusions which it is not comfortable to have detected. Why must Prof. Masson expose the daughters of Milton to be not the "rapt and reverential" scribes whom novelist, painter, and engraver have made a familiar group for us, but such unfilial creatures as to pawn their father's books, and to anticipate wistfully the arrival of his undertaker? Why must the French Emperor filch Cæsar from our list of despots, and insist on classifying him among the philanthropists? Why must Mr. Moore—

But we were about to beg the question.

Mr. Moore would, if interrogated, undoubtedly profess that religious regard for historic truth which inspires the Imperial biographer. He is careful to apologize at the outset that there is nothing in his book "to comfort pro-slavery men anywhere;" and he uniformly makes use of language which would exclude him from such disreputable company. But it is one thing to entertain sound convictions, another to write in a spirit attributable to the very opposite, and the lameness of the author's defence consists in his inability to see that these two things are perfectly compatible. His conclusions will, of course, comfort the enemies of emancipation, and so, also, we can assure him, will those secondary motives for which he has not chosen to account—an apparent jealousy of New England's pre-eminence and an aversion to Puritanism. These supply the bias which he lacked as an abolitionist or even as an antiquarian—and he is the latter more than an historian—so that he seems less anxious to obtain the simple facts about slavery in Massachusetts than to prove that the good name hitherto borne by that State is not only not rightfully hers, but ought to be exchanged for one in an equal degree infamous. It is to this end that he controverts Mr. Sumner, who declared, in 1854, that "no person was ever born a slave on the soil of Massachusetts," and "if, in point of fact, the issue of slaves was sometimes held in bondage, it was never by sanction of any statute law of colony or commonwealth;" and Mr. Palfrey, who repeats that "in fact, no person was ever born into legal slavery in Massachusetts."

According to Mr. Moore, "the first statute establishing slavery in America is to be found in the famous Code of Fundamentals, or Body of Liberties of the Massachusetts Colony in New England—the first code of laws of that colony, adopted in December, 1641." In order to show how he justifies this statement, we will quote the 91st section as he prints it:

LIBERTIES OF FORREINERS AND STRANGERS.

91. There shall never be any bond slavery, villinage or captivité amongst us unless it be lawful captives taken in just warres, and such strangers as willingly selle themselves or are sold to us. And these shall have all the liberties and Christian usages which the law of God established in Israel concerning such persons doeth morally require. This exempts none from servitude who shall be Judged thereto by Authority.

This code was not printed till 1648, and the second printed edition of 1690, with subsequent typographical emendations, retains the foregoing section, differing notably only as follows: For the title, "Bond-slavery" was substituted, and the sentence after "just warres" was made to read: "or

such as shall willingly sell themselves, or are sold to us." That is, the word "strangers" was omitted; designedly, as Mr. Moore insists, and with the effect of removing "the necessity for alienage or foreign birth as a qualification for slavery," and taking off "the prohibition against the children of slaves being 'born into legal slavery in Massachusetts.'" He adds, that the code "sanctions the slave-trade, and the perpetual bondage of Indians and negroes, their children and their children's children."

Had he confined himself to using the word "sanction," our difference with Mr. Moore would not have been fundamental; but elsewhere he has chosen to assert—and his argument hinges upon it—that slavery was "established" by the statute quoted. We shall remark, on the contrary, that the system arose naturally in Massachusetts, and in conformity to the then laws of conquest, when one of the parties to a war belonged to a "heathen" or, as we have since chosen to call such, an "inferior" race; that it began with the captured Indians, some of whom, like the Pequods, being troublesome to keep and not attuned to servitude, were shipped to the Bermudas and swapped for the negro slaves already there; that the publication of the code in question found Indian and negro slavery and the African slave trade already in existence, and provision was made that they should not be disturbed; that the code did not enumerate certain persons or classes who could only remain in the colony in a servile condition and must on no account be admitted to freedom; and that the construction of the disputed 91st section, even without the aid of the original draft, strictly pertains to a trade *from without*, and not within, the colony, and can only be distorted to sanction hereditary bondage. And believing that this is what Mr. Sumner and Mr. Palfrey both mean when they speak of being "born into legal slavery," we agree with them, although it is true that the issue of slaves were held as slaves, and probably by the Civil Law, which holds that *partus sequitur ventrem*, as well as by the prevailing custom in all the British colonies. The Code of Fundamentals "established" slavery and the slave trade in the same sense that the United States Constitution afterwards established them, and in no other.

It is probable, however, that one born a slave would have found it difficult, in the early days, to escape from service by appealing to the law. In 1783 the Legislature instructed the committee to report a bill "declaring that there never were legal slaves in this Government," and in 1796 Chief-Justice Dana instructed a jury that a native negro born before 1780 was of right born free; but in 1799 the same court gave a directly opposite decision. It is noticeable that the petitions of slaves were entertained by the Legislature, and their suits were admitted into the courts. What we observed on a former occasion, in reviewing the history of religious liberty in Massachusetts, is also apparent here: that the courts were more liberal than the General Court, and were the efficient agencies in abolishing slavery. How this overthrow was brought about, in reliance upon the preamble to the Bill of Rights of 1780, we have not space to describe. The judges willingly discovered an intention which was probably far from the thought of John Adams, who framed the Bill; and after the case of Quork Walker vs. Nathaniel Jennison, in 1781-2, no one who chose to be free needed to be bound in Massachusetts. Slavery was so clearly doomed that no strenuous effort was made to preserve it, and if no formal attempt to pronounce it abolished succeeded, it was perhaps in good measure for the same reason.

We are indebted to Mr. Moore for many interesting facts and important documents. In 1659 the General Court ordered two Quaker children, Daniel and Provided Southwick, to be sold, for non-payment of fines, to Barbadoes; but nobody was found willing to carry them thither. There was the usual prohibition of trading with negroes, and of manumission without a guaranty of support for the freedmen. There was, even in 1788, a vagrant law expatriating negroes, but it could not be enforced in 1800 under the stimulus of Gabriel's insurrection. Yet it was not repealed till 1843. The first census in Massachusetts was of negro slaves. When the census ordered by the United States was being taken in 1790, the marshal of the district was generally answered that there were no slaves; and when some professed to be slave-owners, he would ask if they meant to be singular, and, as they concluded not to be, no slaves were returned for any part of the State. The reverses of the Revolution were necessary to make the blacks acceptable as soldiers, as in the later experience of the rebellion. They were not by statute placed upon the footing of white citizens in regard to militia service till 1863. A Constitutional Convention in 1778 excluded negroes from the ballot, but the people voted down the constitution thus vitiated. James Somerset, the subject of Lord Mansfield's famous decision, was a negro slave from Massachusetts. The historic connection is a pleasing one, even after the statement of Lord Mansfield himself "that his decision went no farther than that the master cannot by force compel the slave to go out of the Kingdom."

* "Notes on the History of Slavery in Massachusetts. By George H. Moore, Librarian of the New York Historical Society and Corresponding Member of the Massachusetts Historical Society." D. Appleton & Co., New York. 1866. Pp. 306.

ADrift IN DIXIE.*

LIEUT. HENRY L. ESTABROOKS, of the Twenty-sixth Massachusetts Volunteers, was unlucky enough to be one of the two or three hundred prisoners captured by Early at the battle of Sept. 19, 1864, and at the close of the day was, in company with that general, sent "whirling through Winchester." A week later the young Union officer was herded with many other companions in misery in the Libby Prison, at Richmond; whence, in the beginning of October, he was transferred to a train on the Danville Railroad, to be conveyed to some more infamous place of imprisonment in the far South. A few miles north of Danville he succeeded in escaping from the train, and after a month of painful and hazardous travel, the incidents of which were scarcely less exciting than the creations of the novelist, reached the Union lines near City Point. Part of this journey was made in a dug-out down the Dan River to its confluence with the Staunton at Clarksville, from which place he travelled on foot to his destination, traversing the heart of that portion of southern Virginia which lies east of the Alleghany Mountains. Upon reaching home, Lieut. Estabrooks wrote out from recollection a tolerably full narrative of his escape, which is embodied in the book before us. It is such a plain, unvarnished tale as a man who has endured a month of perilous adventure and constant excitement would indite while the incidents are still fresh in his mind; and it is apparently told in nearly the same form and language as when first related at the family fireside. As a record of singular coolness, sagacity, and endurance in a young man, the volume will attract attention, and none will doubt that the author well deserved the liberty which was the reward of his trials; but to a large class of readers its chief interest will consist in the accounts it presents of the feelings, disposition, and moral and intellectual development of the negro population of southern Virginia. These, from the simplicity of the narrative and the homely directness of the style, seem thoroughly trustworthy; and must prove a valuable addition to the evidence bearing on the same subject already collected.

Of several hundred colored men and women whom Lieut. Estabrooks encountered on his journey, not one refused him sympathy; scarcely one declined to add substantial aid to that sympathy, some even offering him money; and he heard of but one who would be likely to betray him. Go where he would, he found the colored people, bondmen or free, in general well informed of the character which the war had by that time assumed, and able to distinguish between friend and foe. So fully did they seem prepared for just such occurrences as the escape of Lieut. Estabrooks, that his sudden appearance at their cabin doors at night, or at lonely places in the day time, caused little or no surprise; but, on the contrary, often developed a degree of sagacity and presence of mind in them to which on more than one occasion the young officer probably owed his life. In two or three instances only, from pure physical fear, colored men showed reluctance to secrete him or guide him on his way; and, considering the severity of the punishment which awaited them if discovered, it will be admitted that they had reason to hang back. But this only adds to the heroism of those who braved the risk of torture or death to aid the Yankee officer, of whom they knew nothing but that he was their friend. It has been customary to extol the fidelity and courage of the English royalists who harbored, at the risk of their lives and fortunes, the fugitive Charles Stuart when beset by his Roundhead pursuers; or of the Scottish Highlanders who, nearly a century later, performed the same office for another of the same family. In either case it was the foremost man in the realm for whom the risk was encountered. Should he escape, glory, honor, and riches, perhaps, awaited those who had befriended him; and, should they be detected, their punishment, according to the exaggerated notions of loyalty then fashionable, would reflect no less glory on themselves and their kindred. In place of an anointed king, substitute an obscure and needy fugitive, of whom nothing is known beyond the information afforded by himself, whom it is perilous in the extreme to succor, and for the succor of whom no more substantial reward than his gratitude may be expected, and it will be seen how much brighter shine the acts of the ignorant and oppressed pariahs of the South than those of English or Scottish royalists. Lieut. Estabrooks's case was not a peculiar one. Hundreds, if not thousands, of Union fugitives were aided in a similar manner by Southern slaves, but we have nowhere seen their services more directly and, it may be said, more unconsciously set forth than in the unpretending little volume before us; and it seems scarcely credible that any loyal man could arise from the perusal of it without feeling that the debt of gratitude to the colored people of the South has not yet been fully paid. If the negroes of Virginia may be supposed to fairly represent their class, the freedmen possess a degree of intelligence, courage, and

devotion entitling them to a higher reward than mere freedom from bondage. The volume is edited by Edmund Kirke, who has furnished an introduction, although from the lettering on the back it might be supposed that the whole work was his production.

PARIS GOSSIP.

PARIS, May 4, 1866.

So precocious a season as the present is not paralleled in the memory of "the oldest inhabitant." In some parts of foggy Albion the hay is already being carried; wheat and rye are nearly ripe in Belgium; here, strawberries have descended from the Olympian regions of the shop-windows of Cheate, Aubert, and their rivals, to those of ordinary greengrocers; and green peas are being hawked through the streets by itinerant vendors. Asparagus has not yet descended quite so low, and is still too dear for any but well-filled purses; but it is of magnificent quality, and very large, though not quite rivaling its wonderful Brazilian congener—a yard long, thick as a man's arm, and edible down to the very root—which one wonders that no enterprising friend of humanity, in these days of acclimation, has yet bethought him of introducing into Europe. The following choice bit of French-English, extracted from the bill-of-fare book of one of the great feeding-places of the boulevards (which book, for the convenience of English customers, has just been translated into what is supposed to be the insular vernacular), shows both the progress of internationality in this region and the delicacies most in vogue at the present moment:

"BILL OF FARES.—Patty of fatgoose's liver with truffles; soup with smashed chesnuts.—*Fish*. A Thornback with butter which is black.—*Entrees*. Four chops with asparagus tops; a blanket with mushrooms; trotters to a pullet.—*Roast*. A chicken of the year to small peas; asparagus hashed to little points; gelly whipt to a Russian.—*Dessert*. Strawberries, at will; conserves."

The month of May being dedicated, in Catholic countries, to the Virgin Mary, services in her honor are being held in all the churches, with choruses of sacred music sung by young girls dressed in white and blue, the Virgin's colors; the only occasions in which, according to the gallant traditions of the Romish ritual, female voices are allowed to take a recognized part in the services of the altar. All the children bearing the name of 'Marie' are considered as being placed under the special protection of the Virgin, and devoted to her service; very devout mothers of girls so named make it a point (if they can afford the great extra outlay thereby involved in the way of washing-bills) not to allow them, until they reach their fourteenth year, to wear any article of clothing other than white, with, perhaps, a few blue ribbons by way of ornament, and girls so named always choose the Virgin's chapel to say their prayers in, and are married therein when their "ascendants" have duly chosen a husband for them.

The annual fine art exhibition is just opened in the Industrial Palace of the Champs Elysées. The gathering is not considered as being exceptionally fine, but the crowds who there do congregate exceed in number those of previous years. As the Emperor and Empress go frequently to these exhibitions, and buy largely, it has become fashionable to spend an hour or two daily in the interminable galleries of the upper story of the structure which contained the international glories of 1855. It is said that the Government would be glad to sell this vast and costly building, if it could find a purchaser. The yet larger and more pretentious structure, at Auteuil—intended as a permanent industrial exhibition of all the products of the world—is also in the market, and seems likely to remain there indefinitely, to the sad disappointment of the unhappy shareholders, who have long ago renounced the brilliant prospects of gain held out to them in the beginning of the speculation, and would now be devoutly thankful to get back even a fraction of the money invested.

A good many splendid entertainments have been given during the last few days, the most remarkable being the great ball given by the Duke and Duchess of Bisaccia, in their magnificent Hôtel de la Rochefoucauld, and the dinner given to the Emperor and Empress by the young Duke and Duchess de Mouchy, followed by a *soirée dansante*, to which only a few spoonfuls of "the cream of the cream" of the fashionable world had the joy of finding themselves invited. Princess Clothilde, Princess Mathilde, the Crown Prince of Denmark, and some of the princely relatives of the young hosts, were alone invited to the dinner, which is said to have been a miracle of good taste and splendor, and at which, the affability of the two principal guests putting all the others at their ease, the conversation was as merry and animated as the cheer was *recherché*. The relatives of the duke were, at first, terribly shocked and scandalized at the prospect of a Noailles disgracing his illustrious lineage of heaven-knows-how-many centuries by an alliance with the mushroom ex-royalty of the Murats; and all

* "Adrift in Dixie; or, A Yankee Officer Among the Rebels." New York: Carleton.

of them, with the exception of a sister of the late duchess and her two sons, made it a point of honor not to show themselves in the chapel of the Tuileries at the celebration of the marriage. On the return of the young couple from their honeymoon of ten weeks at the fine old Château de Mouchy, much curiosity was felt as to the sort of reception that would be accorded by the haughty representatives of a past régime to the charming granddaughter of the ex-King of Naples, when, in accordance with Paris custom, she made, with her husband, the usual round of wedding calls. The young duke had allowed it to be known that his mind was very decidedly made up on one point, viz.: that whoever of his relations or friends should be "not at home" when he brought his bride to their door should be erased from the "red-book" of the Hôtel de Mouchy for the remainder of his tenancy of that magnificent heirloom of his race. This decision appears to have had its desired effect; for during the week devoted by these young favorites of fortune to making their appearance before the greater part of the grandees of the "aristocratic faubourg," not one soul is said to have been "out" at the time of their call. Many of these sulky contempters of "the Revolution" must have winced a little at the idea of the grand Mouchy gala carriage, its stately coachman, and its lofty lackeys, bringing into the courts of their hotels the Imperial colors and liveries which the bridegroom had solicited and obtained the honor of being allowed to adopt, instead of those of the Noailles; but no one chose to cut himself off from the future fêtes over which Princess Anna would preside, and, accordingly, the whole faubourg had made up its mind to give no pretext for the infliction of the threatened penalty. The duchess being one of the most charming and amiable women of the day, as well as one of the handsomest, appears to have made a most favorable impression on all these people, and to have really melted away a vast deal of social iciness by her genial smile and the bright glances of her beautiful, honest blue eyes. The round of visits, which had been so much dreaded on both sides, thus passed off with the utmost *éclat*, and the young duke has the satisfaction of seeing his wife adopted by the traditional friends and allies of his house.

The Hôtel de Mouchy, in the Rue d'Astorg, is one of the finest private residences of Paris; large, ample, full of historic paintings and sculpture, containing one of the richest private collections of art and *civiltà* to be found in Europe, and with courts, stabling, and gardens on a scale scarcely rivalled by any other of the fine old residences of this city. It is now undergoing extensive repairs, and the Empress has lent to the new pair, meantime, the beautiful house she recently built for her mother, at the corner of the Rue de l'Elysée and the Avenue Gabriel. It was in this charming hotel that the duke and duchess gave their dinner.

Nothing in the lives of the very highest personages of the social world offers a more striking contrast to the habits of the "new rich" than the quietness of their luxurious splendor. Go into the dwellings of the nabobs of finance, of the various fields of lucky speculation, and your eyes are dazzled by the brand-new splendor of every thing they encounter. In the residences of those whose ancestors, like themselves, were born with "the golden spoon in their mouths," the luxury is solid, old-looking, quiet, with the well-worn look of an appendage in every-day use. Nothing is locked up for special occasions; nothing—unless the owners are away—is kept under cover. The beautiful house in which the duke and duchess have set up their temporary housekeeping, though so new, looks, inside, as though it had been inhabited for a hundred years.

On alighting, in the inner court, at the semi-circular vestibule, with windows all round, from which you pass to the staircase, you are received by tall footmen, in gorgeous livery and with a mass of powder in their hair, who pass you on to another functionary of that class, by whom you are motioned to ascend; a signal, sent by him through a silver tube, as you mount the stairs, bringing out another of the radiant tribe from an ante-room above. The broad staircase is so thickly carpeted that the heaviest foot would fall inaudibly; the balustrade is of old carved oak and bronze, the walls are painted in panels, and the ceiling is painted and richly gilded in sunk compartments. The effect of age has been skilfully imparted to these paintings by the dark colors employed, and probably some particular varnish. A superb chandelier hangs above the staircase.

The Mercury who emerges into view as you approach the ante-room deposits your card on a silver salver, and ushers you into the drawing-room. You observe, however, that the ante-room, which seems to be part of the landing-place, for it has no window, is hung with dark blue silk, surrounded by a sort of divan, covered with velvet of the same color, extending all round it, with a table in the centre, covered with the same material, and a thick Turkey carpet on the floor.

The double drawing-room, in which the young princess usually receives her visitors, is hung with satin (you never see wall papers in houses of this

class), of a shade between chocolate and liver: rich and quiet, the play of light on the satin preventing the gloomy aspect that would be presented by paper, or even silk, of so dark a shade. There are no folding doors between the two rooms; their places being occupied by heavy curtains of the same satin, looped up with thick silk cords. The magnificent chimney-pieces—their mantel-shelves covered with embroidery—are laden with immense clocks, candelabra, vases, and small objects of art. Several richly ornamented pieces of furniture are placed against the walls, in buhl, carved ebony, and Japanese laque; and both rooms are literally filled with luxurious seats of all shapes, kinds, and sizes. Divans, like the hangings, are placed against the walls; little sofas, squabs, *tête-à-tête*s, ottomans, arm-chairs, lounging-chairs, and chairs of every possible style, are scattered all over the rooms, grouped about tables of various size, just ready for visitors to drop into, and so well-disposed that the guests would find themselves, by the mere fact of their cosy distribution, naturally disposed to go off into "chat." The more massive of these seats are covered with the same satin as the walls and curtains; the more fantastic are covered with oriental silks, the ground of which is of the same color, and the pattern in gold and bright colors; several have gilded frames, and a few of sky-blue contrast pleasantly with the sober tone of the rest. The centre-table of the larger room is covered with a superb India shawl, with a very rich, deep fringe, gathered into a sort of drapery below the top. An immense oblong table of dark rose-wood stands before the great bay-window, laden with newspapers, writing materials, books, etc., and with chairs conveniently placed round it. All the other tables are covered with objects of art, elegant baskets or pots of flowers, photographs, little busts, work-baskets, crochet-cases, books, smelling-bottles, and an infinity of small, elegant objects, most of them things of every-day use, but all works of art in their own line. The duchess's favorite seat—a great lounging-chair, with a book-stand attached, foot-rest, and other ingenious conveniences—stands beside the fireplace, with her own table to the left of her chair. This "table" is a *meuble in parloir*; being a happy combination of drawers, writing-desk, etc., and is covered with little busts and photographs of the Emperor and Empress, her parents, relatives, and friends; dwarfed plants in tiny baskets, and all the materials of her usual occupations.

But the glory of this most charming drawing-room is its enormous windows, forming a deep bay, extending along nearly the entire front of the room, and looking out not only on the beautiful garden of the hotel, but into the vast grounds of the palace of the Elysée across the street, with its immense and magnificent trees, and on the innumerable trees of the Avenue Gabriel and the gardens of the adjacent hotels, all of them full of trees, the largest of the city, excepting a few of those in the gardens of the Tuileries and Luxembourg. In order to allow of the full enjoyment of what looks like some wonderful leafy fairyland or sylvan arcadia, these great windows are hung with dark blue gauze, which softens the light but allows of the scene outside being distinctly visible between the curtains of satin and embroidered lace, which make, as it were, a series of frames to the various pictures presented by the windows.

The piano (the duke is an accomplished musician) is placed cornerwise in one of the angles of the front room; hidden by a screen of trelliswork, over which living ivy is trained, the roots of the ivy being planted in a narrow box of zinc at the bottom of the screen. Add to the "items" already described the pictures on the walls, the rich, dark panelling of the doors, with their sober "bits" of gilding, statues, and vases in corners all about the rooms, superb chandeliers of rock crystal and gilt bronze, and the well-used appearance of all these comfortable and luxurious elements of home life, and you will have a pretty good idea of the cosy elegance of the most fortunate young couple of imperial France. Of course, when a fête is given, various other rooms are thrown open, all brilliantly lighted, and gay with magnificent flowers. But in every-day life the beautiful drawing-room, with all its costly and luxuriant appointments, is the most quiet-looking and cosy of apartments, one in which you could sit down comfortably to any task which you might happen to have in hand, without feeling in any way restrained by the touch-me not newness and gala-day finery of drawing-rooms of a lower rank, reserved for visitors and show.

As for the fair princess who therein holds sway, she will receive you during the day-time in a toilette of the utmost simplicity, and with an entire absence of pretension. On such occasions she will probably wear a plain black silk morning-dress, white collar and sleeves, a tiny cravat, sand-colored gloves, and her beautiful hair artistically but simply put up in a net, with no jewelry or finery, and only the ornament of her bright eyes, pleasant smile, and graceful manner, offering a very marked contrast to the elaborate "getting up" of rich women of a lower rank whose morning toilettes are now-a-days almost as costly and overlaid as their evening ones.

Articles on any of the subjects usually discussed in this journal will be received from any quarter. If used, they will be liberally paid for; if rejected, they will be returned to the writers on the receipt of the requisite amount of postage stamps.

All Communications which pertain to the literary management of THE NATION should be addressed to the Editor.

THE RECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION.

MR. ROBERT DALE OWEN has published a long letter in the *Evening Post* setting forth a plan of reconstruction, of which the leading features are the establishment of universal suffrage at a certain fixed date, say 1876; and the alteration of the basis of representation not in the way proposed by the Committee of Reconstruction, which inflicts a penalty on every State requiring an intelligence qualification or imposing a poll-tax, but by simply excluding from computation all persons disfranchised by the States on account of race or color. He also urges the necessity of taking precautions not only against the repudiation of our debt, or the addition to it of enormous sums for the payment of Southern claims for damages sustained by the war—both of these things he looks on as wildly improbable—but against the mere discussion of them in Congress. The mere agitation of these matters, even if it had not the smallest chance of success, would, he rightly considers, be very injurious to the public credit; he therefore proposes that the subject should be for ever excluded from the political arena by a constitutional amendment.

Mr. Owen adds, however, that a proposition even for the bestowal of prospective suffrage on the negro would, in the opinion of the majority of Congress, cause the rejection by the people of any constitutional amendment in which it was embodied. He, therefore, surrenders this part of his plan, and contents himself for the present with securing the colored population in the enjoyment of civil rights, but presses for a change in the basis of representation and the final and formal repudiation of the rebel debt and all rebel claims.

Now it may be that the majority are right as to the unwillingness of the country at present to force negro suffrage on the South. That they should think so, is comprehensible; but that gentlemen who have this strong impression of the conservative tone of the public mind should have so little hesitation as they have shown in asking that same public to pass an amendment excluding nine-tenths of the Southern people from all share in the government for the next ten years, is not comprehensible. Of all the wildly radical propositions for the settlement of the Southern difficulty that have been made this is unquestionably the wildest and most radical, and yet it has been coolly presented to the House by a committee which does not dare to speak of universal suffrage, and has been passed by the House, with what, in spite of all that has been said of Mr. Stevens's dexterous use of parliamentary tactics, may be fairly called alacrity.

The great difficulty with which Thaddeus Stevens and those who think with him have to contend in advocating their plans for the punishment and pacification of the South, is that these plans are opposed both to the genius of American institutions and to the temper of the times; and they are, therefore, sure not to be tried, or, if tried, are sure not to succeed. Confiscation, disfranchisement, retaliation, proscription of all kinds, as means either of reconciling large bodies of men to a new and distasteful order of things or of frightening them into obedience or acquiescence, are expedients borrowed from mediæval or pagan times—expedients that fifty generations of tyrants and conquerors have tried, and found worthless; expedients which no man who reverences human nature, and who desires its elevation, will ever desire to see succeed. That piece of fierce invective in which Mr. Stevens poured forth his latest views with regard to the treatment which we should deal out to the Southern States, was but the utterance in a deliberative assembly of the opinions on which for thousands of years the statcraft of the Old World has been based, and by which two-thirds of the atrocities of history were instigated. There was nothing startling or strange about them except their production at such a time and in such a place. And they are certain to fail here, because our polity, our religion, our manners, our theory of government, of morals, and of human nature are but a series of protests against them. We have repudiated them as solemnly as men can do. If there be any

principle at the base of our Government and society, it is that the great remedy for disaffection is equality, protection, and freedom of speech, and that there is no worse way of making men orderly and submissive to law than putting them under a ban or disability. There is in our legislation no place either for hate or revenge, and anybody who seeks to embody either one or other in it is false to the very spirit of our institutions. We therefore have no hesitation in predicting that the disfranchisement section of the proposed amendment will neither be passed nor carried out, and in asserting that those who now attempt to lay it before the country either have very little knowledge of its temper or very little respect for its understanding.

But for reasons which, if not the same, are somewhat similar, we do not understand the hesitation which Congress shows in asking the country to agree to anything which looks towards securing the freedmen the means of protecting themselves which are offered in universal suffrage. Nobody who has watched the tendency of the times, and who is familiar with the processes by which our people reach their conclusions on the great problems of society and government, ought to feel that the exclusion of negroes from the franchise, either in Connecticut or in any other State, is of much value as an indication of what the popular response would be one, two, or three years hence to a demand from Congress that the Southern disease should be cured by the destruction of all the barriers which excluded the loyal portion of the Southern population from a share in the Government. The greatest glory of the country and its most marked peculiarity is that an appeal to principles is nowhere so effective, that principles have a charm and fascination for the public such as have never anywhere else been witnessed, and that their triumph, though slow, is certain; that no public man and no party which has ever yet taken his or its stand upon them has failed to succeed. We are not so readily captivated by them as the French. We never run mad after an epigram or a definition. We examine, discuss, and hesitate a good deal, but once we discover the article to be genuine, we fasten on it tenaciously.

The fact, then, that there is not a single argument against negro suffrage which is not based on prejudice, is one of the grandest imports in our statesmanship. The ignorance of the negro is remediable, and the remedy may be controlled by Congress. The popular dislike to him will doubtless last long after he has wiped off from himself the last traces of the degradation wrought by slavery, and the dread of having the general Government unduly strengthened by its efforts to better his condition in reality generally comes from men who are never troubled by any assumption of authority if only the "nigger" is not the object of it. All these arguments against it are based on things temporary, fleeting, and evanescent. Some of them people are already ashamed to use.

On the other hand, our theory of government, the popular conception of the mission of the Republic—a refuge for men of all races and all creeds, in which artificial distinctions should count for nothing, and in which the poorest and meanest should enjoy the same legal rights as the richest and best-born—the popular love of principles, the popular love of fair play, the national pride in its republicanism, in its equality, are all fighting in favor of the very thing which Congressmen are so afraid to touch. Negro suffrage may be a bad thing, an inexpedient thing, a thing that, if established, will prove the ruin of the country. Many people have the same feeling about democracy itself; but nothing can be more certain than that we shall yet see every man in this country, black, white, yellow, red, and brown, voting, no matter what the consequence may be. Every influence by which society is affected is helping to bring this about. The whole current of progress, physical and mental and moral and religious, runs in this direction, and the shrewd politicians are those who count on it, look for it, and proclaim its coming, and not those who are afraid to mention it.

A BURIAL SERVICE.

To this burying

We come alone—you and I,—not with our dead,
But with our dearest living; oh, could mortal tread
Be unflinching!

God knows how we love it,
This we have come to bury; the eyes smile; life's best wine
The hands hold out! Darling, shall it be yours or mine
To lay the first sod above it?

But no decaying
Can reach it, in this sepulchre whose stone
Our hearts must make! To an exceeding glory grown,
This grief outweighing,

Not even regretting,
It will await us! Thank God, not being sown
In any dishonor, it will await its own,
Never forgetting!

To Christ's protection,
Now let us leave it,—the tomb—and the key! He
Will remember us, if there may ever be
Resurrection!

H. II.

ELEGANT ORATORY.

THERE are certain contemptuous vulgarisms not honored by a place in any dictionary which are yet indispensable to people who habitually listen to the stump speeches of this and other countries. Highfalutin is a useful term of this sort; Blow is another; Blatherskite is another; and there are many more in many different tongues. A purist would probably deny them the name of language. They are all the fitter then, we may say, to designate a jargon which itself is neither an instrument of thought nor a means of communicating thought. They are just the criticism, quite respectful enough and quite discriminative enough, to pass upon the true stump eloquence.

It is not particularly pleasant to know that the critic of Congressional eloquence also does sometimes, however much against his will, find some use for these same terms; to find that the rhetorical standard of the cross-roads is sometimes the only standard applicable to the honorable orator who speaks for a great State in the national councils or tries to rise to the height of some great national occasion. The house of Pogram is as surely and as rapidly disappearing as the forests in which its founder was bred. Even the Southern branch of the family is in its decadence. Yet, as we read the morning papers, we can see that once in a while one legislator or another diminishes the respect which we like to entertain for him, by some amazing burst of spurious eloquence, which is not agreeable if we consider the speaker alone, and wholly disagreeable when we reflect that, by mistake, a well-meaning man has done something to bring the nation into contempt. Considered in itself the thing may be amusing. For example, there seems to be no good reason in the nature of things why we should not lump together the old, familiar, Fourth of July bird of freedom, at which all Congressmen probably smile superior, and that recent wonderful steam engine, and give the two the same uncomplimentary epithet. And if we ever laughed at our national emblem in his Glorious-Anniversary attitudes, one pinion flapping far above Upper Canada and the other overshadowing the trembling halls of the Montezumas, screaming the death-knell of European monarchies as he soars majestically to his Rocky Mountain eyry, why—unless because he appears in Congress—should we refrain from laughter at the Pacific Railroad locomotive of Mr. Banks's late peroration? That triumph of art is to wend its slow foot, we are told, up the precipitous slopes of the same Rocky Mountain chain, and, as its foot is slowly wended, is to scream out the last requiem of the solid men of Boston!

Eagle and engine are much alike. Some of the resemblances between them are not perfect, to be sure. For instance, though both are ill-tempered apparently, the scream of the eagle, it has been truly said, "discounts the universe," while in the scream of the engine we detect "the note of provinciality;" the eagle soars westward and the engine walks; one hates monarchs and the other aristocrats. But in this, at least, they are alike—both are truly screamers; and the one, we contend, is as fine a specimen of pure highfalutin as the other.

Nor is this merely the slip of a moment on the part of one man only. Such speaking is believed to be elegant and powerful oratory. There are gentlemen in Congress grieved at not being versed in it, and other gentlemen who are complete masters of it and constant practitioners, and others again who rise in their seats and say in praise of fustian very similar to this that it is "gifted words" and a "splendid tribute."

A few days since the House was considering whether the grade of general should be revived, and, of course, the chief theme of the speakers was

the character and services of Lieutenant-General Grant. It was a theme which one might have thought adequate in itself, of a nature to demand and to be best adorned by an honest and dignified rhetoric, earnest, sincere, and without pretence. It is only a year since the whole North was in an uproar of joy because victory had come at last. The strain of four years of anxiety was at an end, the sacrifices of four years of suffering and labor were all rewarded, and the most tumultuous expression of gladness was nothing to the depths of heartfelt satisfaction beneath. The death of Abraham Lincoln came afterwards, or we might still point to that memorable time when the Confederacy fell as the time when the hearts and minds of loyal Americans were most at one and most deeply stirred. And in all our exultation and content, Grant was the man whom we most delighted to honor. We remembered then the February which had added the name of Donelson to a roll of battles that before had held no names but Bull Run and Bethel and Ball's Bluff, and how ever since then the conqueror of that army and fortress, fighting at Shiloh, at Vicksburg, at Chattanooga, in the Wilderness, had led our armies to the final success. Our pride in our victory was the measure of our pride in him and of our belief in his greatness. In Grant we recognized the impersonation of that tenacity which must conquer, and of that courage unconquerable which had obtained for the people so grand and so well deserved a success. Whatever may be the judgment of the critics upon his ability as a commander, his claims to admiration as a military genius, this solid glory must remain to him—that his country, after trying many men, and many good men, in him at last saw itself, and recognizing its own spirit, gave to him its undoubting confidence, and so accomplished its desires.

These recollections of what so short a time since was in the hearts of all must have been fresh in all minds. Yet, though Congress is mainly composed of men of sense and largely of men of ability and education, and contains several speakers quite equal to a worthy treatment of the subject, the selected orator of the occasion makes a pretentious speech which may be "gifted words" but is by no means the splendid rhetoric which he mistakes it for, nor at all what we had a right to expect. Silence or oratory we had a right to expect, and we get neither.

The rhetorician, the orator, for that matter, though it is well enough that he be born, may be made. To a certain extent, it is true that he must be made. And as there are plenty of text-books; as in almost no kind of literature are there so many models of excellence within reach as in the rhetorical kind, and in no field of intellectual labor is a failure apt to be more complete and ridiculous; and as, despite the newspapers, which usurp some of its functions, the art still offers to its masters great opportunities and great rewards, we recommend to Mr. Banks, Mr. Deming, and the other gentlemen of fluency that they proceed to the study of it. Cato, if they are fond of classical exemplars, began Greek long after he was fifty, and shunned no labor. Another person, an example equally classical and perhaps more to the purpose, used to lie on his back with lead weights on his breast in order to improve his chest tones. And, at any rate, till they have begun the study, we beg them to leave off the practice of the more difficult branches. Most men when they talk of business, when they really have something to say, talk well enough. It is when they begin to be fine, to display their ornaments, that these half-taught people expose themselves. And at the same time we see specimens of all that tawdry finery which a better taste discards. We have recently had a "splendid effort" wherein the seeker for the pinchbeck gewgaws of rhetoric may find a collection very good in respect of both quantity and variety. Of anti-climax, for instance, there is this pretty good sample: He, "when the rebellion struck the first tocsin, rushed to the defence of the flag under which he had been trained and nurtured—and offered his services to Governor Yates, of Illinois." This was the same man who previously had fought so well "on that memorable day when the steep and frowning heights of Chapultepec were carried, and the trembling city below implored the mercy of our artillery," and afterwards "wiped out Jeff. Thompson." It was he, too, who, being confronted with "the mightiest Paladin of treason," properly enough refused to believe that even a paladin "could suddenly throw a summersault over intervening forests and mountains into our lines." So, modern and unromantic tactics being applied to him, ever the mightiest Paladin found himself "outflanked and whipped." And if any one has a weakness for metaphor he can have his taste completely gratified, if indeed he be not completely cured of it. Here is one which has the stroke of a butcher's cleaver in it: "At Richmond, in April last, there was a blow struck which at the same time broke the head and paralyzed the extremities of the rebellion." And here are some which are remarkable both singly and in conjunction. The Capitol is described: "This massive structure, with its solid foundations, expanded wings, towering columns, and bubbling dome," which perhaps may all be

"engulfed in Lethe's dark waters," a fate which, somehow or other (perhaps the cadence is the reason of it), recalls the whelming of Araby's daughter. Whoever likes his metaphors mixed will do well to go to the historical sketch which opens the oration: "Far, far back at the very dawn of history, indeed upon the very first page of man's tempestuous annals, writ in faded hieroglyphs upon crumbling columns."

As to what may be read upon this singular tempestuous, dawning page, whose columns crumble and whose hieroglyphs fade, and upon other pages (very many other pages, indeed) which follow it, we learn that beyond a doubt Grant may properly be made a general, as can be proved by the history of Rameses, Sesostris, the Pharaohs, Achilles, Hector, King Agamemnon, commander-in-chief during "the war which for two lustrums raged round mighty Ilium," Themistocles, Miltiades, Aristides, Epaminondas, Caesar, Hannibal, Charlemagne, Turenne, Condé, de Luxembourg, Marlborough, who having won the battle of Blenheim, "the extensive manner of Woodstock, once a royal palace—the scene of the loves of Henry II. and the fair Rosamond—was instantly conveyed to him in fee," Wellington, Jackson, Scott, Zachary Taylor, William Henry Harrison, and lastly Washington, against whose name "the mournful affix 'dead'" is written in the records of the War Department, a fact which "vividly suggests, in connection with a name so illustrious, that

"The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

It is only too easy to laugh at the burning words of such oratory as this. But not a few of its characteristics—the style, with its mingled turgidity and meanness; the language, deformed by vulgarisms and without felicity of any kind; the clumsy ostentation of erudition, so cheap that its useless display is not even pedantry—these are shared with the bastard eloquence of the stump alone.

The best that can be said for such displays, and it is too disgraceful that this commendation should be possible, is that their faults are chargeable to defective taste and knowledge merely, and that when compared with some recent violations of Congressional decorum and outrages upon common decency they rise to respectability.

A HUMAN NUISANCE.

A MAN named Kranchie, or rather a man's mode of life, has been brought before the Board of Health in this city as a nuisance. He lives in a barrel on a vacant lot, and surrounds himself with offal, rags, and old bones, and lives on dogs and rats and other foul things, and the smell of his "appurtenances" poisons the air in his neighborhood. One of the inspectors has therefore reported him as a cholera-breeder, and proposes to have him abated.

This incident seems trifling, but it is in reality a most striking illustration of the enormous interval of feeling which separates us from an antiquity not very remote. Kranchie's habits are such as would two thousand years ago have entitled him to the rank and honors of a philosopher. The contempt which he displays for the comforts and even decencies of life would have been taken as the result of his meditation on the vanity of earthly things, and to his success in finding his happiness inside of himself. In the early ages of Christianity, or even in the Middle Ages, he might have passed his barrel and his rags and his old bones and dead dogs off as proofs of extraordinary sanctity, and thousands would have come long distances to get a whiff of his bad odors, and see him cast out devils and cure diseases, after having dined off the leg of a cat. Simon Stylites and many of the monks of the desert must have been twice as dirty and unsavory as he is. We do not know that Kranchie makes any pretensions to holiness—we hope not—but he undoubtedly would do so if the public gave him any encouragement in it, and that the public has not done so and does not do so is a proof of the distance to which we have wandered from the opinions and customs of our fathers. Had he lived in the ages of which we have spoken, we may be sure he would not have been dirty, and would not have lived in a tub very long, without finding out that he gained by it in popular estimation, and consequently without rising to an extravagant height in his own.

Closely allied to the ancient respect for philosophic or monkish indifference to dirt was the ancient horror of luxury, as a moral evil, and there is, perhaps, nothing which separates modern from ancient civilization more strikingly than the reconciliation which is in our day to be witnessed between good living and good morals. An ancient philosopher often surrounded himself with comforts, but he did so with strong misgivings as to their effect on his character. A modern philosopher secures all the good things he can afford not only without a qualm, but with perfect faith that they improve him, and that a man is likely to be all the better Christian and better citizen

for being "well off." A proper sense of the vanity of this world is no longer held to be incompatible with a morning bath, a clean shirt, and the proprietorship of a pair of horses and a corner lot. Poverty and dirt have sunk gradually from the rank they once occupied as moral agents of the first order to that of almost unmitigated evils.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW.

NATION OFFICE, Monday Evening,
May 21, 1866.

THE Government broker sold some nine millions of gold last week at 130 to 130½. Of this amount the bulk was taken by bankers for export, and two millions or so on speculation. Though the Sub-Treasury balance has not increased as much as might have been expected from such heavy sales, the movement of these large sums of currency has imparted more tone to the money market. Call loans have advanced 1 per cent., and should the Government continue to sell a further advance to 7 per cent. would seem inevitable. Money has now ranged at 4 to 5 per cent. for a much longer period than usual, and a change is but natural. No prolonged stringency can take place so long as the Secretary owes \$125,000,000 on call at 4 to 5 per cent. But the banks will not resist an advance in the rate to 7, and would rather see money firm at that figure than otherwise. Of course, a 7 per cent. money market would for the time being put an end to the scheme for a 5 per cent. loan. Late advices from Washington increase the probability of strong opposition being made to Senator Sherman's bill. Senator Fessenden has already placed himself upon the record as one of its opponents, and he intimated that it did not even command the approval of a majority of the Finance Committee. The difficulty is that if the bill passed and it was found impossible to negotiate 5 per cent. bonds at par, the Secretary would be left without any means of funding his short-date obligations.

The stock market shows no new feature. Cliques continue to rule the day; where they are not moving stocks of all kinds are dull and neglected. The Prairie du Chien party, which bought large lots of Illinois Central ten days or a week since at 8 to 10 per cent. above the price in Europe, have since been bulling New York Central, the price of which they forced up at one time to 95. There is, of course, no justification for the movement in the earnings of the road, which are falling off. But the ease of money enables cliques to buy any quantity of a stock which they desire to put up, and, until they are forced by an advance in the rate of interest to disgorge their purchases, it is not certain that prices will decline. The quantity of New York Central on our market is unprecedentedly large. The Pittsburgh party continue to operate in a mysterious way. On Friday the price rose to 86½, in the face of a decline of \$23,000 in the April earnings. It has since been done at 84½. Erie has fallen back again, and it is suspected that the bulls are tired of their game. The short interest in this and other active stocks is less than it was a few weeks ago. Fort Wayne is steady with a small business. Michigan Southern does not vary much; at or above 80 the clique appear to be willing to supply the stock. A new movement has been inaugurated in the stocks of the North-western road, and they are rather higher. Hudson has advanced 3 per cent. on a reported increase in the earnings. Toledo, likewise, is firm. The miscellaneous stocks have not varied materially since we last wrote. Governments are active, and the tendency would be downward but for the theory that the Secretary is sustaining 5-20s by purchases made with the money received for sales of gold.

The following table will show the course of the stock, gold, exchange, and money markets since our last issue:

	May 14.	May 17.	May 21.	Advance.	Decline.
United States Sixes of 1881.....	100	108¾	108½	¾	.....
5-20 Bonds, old.....	101½	101½	101½	¾	.....
5-20 Bonds of 1865.....	102	101½	102	¾	.....
10-40 Bonds.....	96	96	96	.....	¾
7-30 Notes, second series.....	102½	102½	102½	.....	¾
New York Central.....	92½	94½	93½	.....	¾
Erie Railway.....	73½	73½	73½	.....	¾
Hudson River.....	109½	109½	118	8½	.....
Reading Railroad.....	107½	107½	107½	.....	.....
Michigan Southern.....	80	79½	79½	.....	¾
Cleveland and Pittsburgh.....	84½	84½	85½	½	.....
Chicago and North-western.....	28½	28½	28½	¾
" " Preferred.....	59	58½	58½
Chicago and Rock Island.....	94½	93½	93½	¾
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Canton.....	61½	60½	60½	1
Cumberland.....	45½	47½	46½	1
Mariposa.....	12½	12½	12½
American Gold	130½	130	130½	½
Bankers' Bills on London	109½	109½	109½	¾	.....
Call Loans	5	5	6	1	.....

The specie export for the week ending on Saturday last was \$8,763,000, by far the largest export ever made from this port in a single week. Sterling exchange, which for many weeks had ruled at 106½ to 108½, suddenly jumped to 100½. Further specie shipments will be made this week, and the

drain will continue until financial affairs resume their former smooth aspect in Europe, and prices are restored to a just equilibrium. The immediate causes of the sudden advance in exchange were the importation of American securities from Europe and the cessation of cotton shipments. But for some time a change has been inevitable. From various causes, prices of all kinds of merchandise and of all classes of securities have been higher here than in Europe. Not only articles of foreign growth, such as teas, coffees, hides, spices, sugars, drugs, etc., have paid a profit on their importation from England, but American produce, cotton, breadstuffs, and provisions have ruled so much higher here than abroad that New York millers have sent to Liverpool to buy Chicago wheat, and New York bakers have sent to Paris to buy flour. A profit of from 2 to 5 per cent. has been realized on the importation of American stocks—5-20 bonds, Erie, and Illinois Central—for sale in this market. Cotton has not yet been re-imported, though at present prices a profit could be realized on the operation. So anomalous a state of things could not last long. The remedy has come in the shape of a sudden advance in exchange, and a resumption of specie shipments at a rate which promises soon to make up for their prolonged discontinuance. As it happens, the remedy—which will afford relief to the embarrassed banks of Europe—will involve no trouble here. Had we been trading on a specie basis, it would have gravely embarrassed us to lose nine millions of gold in a week. As it is, the Government supplies the bullion, and the transfer is not felt in commercial or financial circles. It is asked—how if the drain continues? The answer to this question depends on two things—first, the Southern cotton crop; and, secondly, the extent to which Northern importers are indebted to Europe. Government can afford to sell some forty millions of gold, which, if the coming cotton crop prove anything like an average, and if the importers have paid a fair proportion of their debts to Europe, will suffice to restore equilibrium, and will help foreign banks out of their troubles without embarrassing us. If, on the other hand, the coming cotton crop should fall considerably below an average, or if the importers, relying upon Mr. McCulloch's promises of contraction, have generally deferred their remittances, we shall inevitably ship all the gold the Treasury can spare, and when it is forced to stop selling the premium will rise, perhaps very high. It is no easy matter to form a reliable judgment with regard to either of these questions. A number of cotton circulars declare that the crop promises badly; that the seed proves bad, and that the plant is sickly. On the other hand, other authorities predict a crop of two million bales. As to the indebtedness of our merchants to Europe, individual enquiry would tend to prove that remittances have been general; every importer says that he and his friends have paid up promptly. On the other hand, it would seem but natural that many importers must have deferred remittances in the hope of a contraction of the currency, which was promised by Mr. McCulloch, especially as their spring business proved generally unremunerative.

It is clear that nothing but the policy of the Treasury Department now prevents an advance in gold and a decline in 5-20s. At 130½, all last week, the Treasury broker stood ready to supply bidders, and it is understood, though not officially avowed, that the bulk of the currency derived from the sales of gold was invested in 5-20 bonds. Thus the former stands no higher than it did when we were shipping cotton, wheat, corn, provisions, and bonds to Europe by every steamer, and the latter still command a premium, though they are coming from Europe at the rate of \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 a week. Should the cotton crop turn out well, this action of the department will figure in history as eminently sagacious. It will be said of Mr. McCulloch that, at a critical moment, by a judicious use of his resources, he checked the depreciation of the currency and maintained the market value of public securities. But if accident should reduce the cotton crop much below an average, the consequences of this interference with the natural course of prices will prove disastrous not only to the reputation of our finance minister, but to the best interests of the country. Mr. Chase tried to regulate prices from the blue room of the Sub-Treasury, and very nearly broke the nation in the attempt. Let us hope that Mr. McCulloch will be more fortunate.

THE FOURTH NATIONAL BANK

HAVE REMOVED TO THEIR NEW

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At all times on hand at lowest prices.

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ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

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A. S. MILLS, Secretary.

T. B. VAN BUREN, Treasurer.

S. TEATS, M.D., Medical Examiner.

J. F. ENTZ, Consulting Actuary.

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MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

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DIVIDEND, TWENTY PER CENT.

This Company ensures against MARINE and INLAND Navigation Risks on Cargo and Freight.

No Time Risks or Risks upon Hulls of Vessels are taken.

The Profits of the Company ascertained from January 10, 1855, to January 1, 1865, for which certificates were issued, amount to..... \$1,707,310
Additional profits from January 1, 1865, to January 1, 1866..... 189,024

Total profit for eleven years..... \$1,896,334
The certificates previous to 1863 have been redeemed in cash..... 1,107,340

NEW YORK, Feb. 20, 1866.

ALFRED EDWARDS, President.
WILLIAM LECONY, Vice-President.

THOMAS HALE, Secretary.

ÆTNA INSURANCE COMPANY,

OF HARTFORD.

Capital, \$3,000,000
Incorporated in 1816.

LOSSES PAID IN 46 YEARS..... \$17,485,894 71
J. GOODNOW, Secretary. L. J. HENDREE, President.

Assets January 1, 1866, \$4,067,455 80
Claims not due and unadjusted..... 244,391 43

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Losses promptly adjusted and paid by JAS. A. ALEXANDER, Agent.

WILLIAM KNABE & CO.'S

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J. BAUER & CO., Agents.

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ON THE PARTICIPATION PLAN.

MARKET FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

37 WALL STREET, CORNER OF JAUNCEY COURT.

CONDITION OF THE COMPANY.

ABSTRACT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF DEC. 31, 1864.

TOTAL ASSETS	\$414,729 18
Viz.—Bonds and Mortgages	\$134,672 00
Temporary Loans	92,630 00
Real Estate	10,000 00
100 Shares Mer. Ex. Bank	5,000 00
Government Sec., value	144,514 00
Cash on hand	18,442 34
Interest due	3,083 38
Premiums due	6,785 36
PRESENT LIABILITIES	\$15,965
NET SURPLUS	198,733 26

This Company will continue, as heretofore, to insure respectable parties against DISASTER BY FIRE

At fair and remunerating rates; extending, according to the terms on its Policies, the advantage of the

PARTICIPATION PLAN OF THE COMPANY.

pursued by it for several years past, with such great success and popularity, and profit to its customers: whereby

(75) SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT. (75)
of the Profits, instead of being withdrawn from the Company in Dividends to Stockholders, is invested as a "SCRIP FUND," and held for greater protection of its Policyholders; and Scrip, bearing interest, is issued to Customers therefor; thus, IN THIS COMPANY, those who furnish the business, AND PAY THE PREMIUMS, derive the largest share of advantages; and when the accumulations of the SCRIP FUND shall exceed

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, the excess will be applied to PAY OFF the Scrip IN CASH in the order of its issue.

NOTE.—The liberal and prompt adjustment of Claims for Loss, WHEN FAIR AND SQUARE, is a specialty with this Company.
NOTE.—This Company does not insure on the hazards of RIVER, LAKE, or INLAND NAVIGATION; confining itself strictly to a legitimate FIRE INSURANCE BUSINESS.

H. P. FREEMAN, Secretary.

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BROOKLYN, N. Y.

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ASSETS 1,500,000 00

Insurance against Loss by Fire, Marine, Lake, Canal, and Inland Transportation.

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THE

MORRIS FIRE AND INLAND INSURANCE COMPANY,

COLUMBIAN BUILDING, 1 NASSAU STREET.

JUNE 1, 1867

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL, \$5,000,000.

CASH CAPITAL, PAID IN, AND SURPLUS, \$885,040 57.

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They are more burglar-proof.
They are perfectly dry.
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REPEATING PISTOLS,
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At the Fair of the American Institute held in New York in 1865 CARHART & NEEDHAM received the SPECIAL GOLD MEDAL over all the other instruments placed there in competition. The judges were Dr. Wm. Berge, C. B. Seymour (critic of the New York Times), Thomas Appleton, celebrated organ builder of Boston, George Jardine, also a well-known organ builder, and Dr. E. Ringer, an expert in the business.

EXTRACTS FROM THE SEVERAL REPORTS OF THE JUDGES.

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"The quality of the tone is the best I have ever heard, and the number of stops surpassed my expectations. The delicacy of touch and the quickness of speech are remarkable. In fine, I consider the Parlor Organ of Messrs. CARHART & NEEDHAM to be the best on exhibition, and therefore entitled to the highest award of the Institute."

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